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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)
U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS
Margaret P. Grafeld, Director
(☒) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s): _____

Declassify: () In Part () In Full

22 January 1983

() Classify as _____ () Extend as _____ () Downgrade to _____

Date _____ Declassify on _____ Reason _____

His Excellency
Llamil Reston
Minister of Interior
Government of the Republic of Argentina
Buenos Aires

Dear Mr. Minister:

We greatly appreciate your meeting us yesterday and the comprehensive, clear presentation you gave us concerning your government's policies. As you know, a large number of individual humanitarian cases have been called to our attention. The purpose of this letter is to provide you some of the information we have been given and to urge that your staff examine a few individual cases. If the information we have been given is correct, there would seem to be a strong case for early favorable action in the following cases.

Emilio Enrique Arquiola was arrested in 1973; in 1980 he was sentenced to six years; we believe he is at Rawson; we are told he is diabetic, has lost his teeth and is nearly blind.

Jorge Mario Domingo Marca is a PEN prisoner also at Rawson; he was arrested in 1974; reportedly he was recovering from an operation for a cerebral aneurism at the time of his arrest; his central nervous system was affected and he continues to have many health problems.

Isidoro and Emilia Gelstein were arrested in 1975; in 1980 both were given 12 year sentences; this is not a young couple (both in their late fifties); they have a daughter who has already been released and is living in France.

Blanca Molciucsky was detained in 1975 and we believe has been sentenced; she has had major health problems including several operations and has spent much of her time in the prison hospital.

We have been given the names of many disappeared by relatives very eager for information. We understand your government's policy of giving this information to family members privately, not publishing it. We

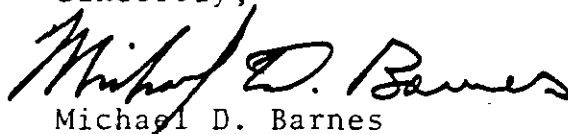
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Llamil Reston
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would appreciate your providing information to families in the following cases or we would be pleased to convey information privately if that should be convenient: Nelida Azucena Sosa de Forti (February 1977); Monica Marta Lemos de Lavallo (July 1977, reportedly eight months pregnant); Cecilia Laura Minervini (August 1977); Claudio Gerbilisky (August 1977); Mauricio Fabian Weinstein (April 1978).

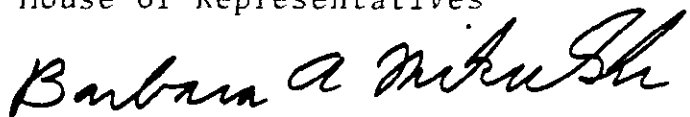
We recognize the major progress you have made in resolving PEN prisoner and other problems during the past couple of years and we welcome your commitment to advance this process. We would appreciate your providing any information possible on the above cases to us directly or through the United States Embassy in Buenos Aires or your Embassy in Washington.

We have been strongly and favorably impressed by many aspects of Argentina and look forward to learning more and following closely developments here.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Barnes
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Inter-American Affairs,
Foreign Affairs Committee,
House of Representatives



Barbara Mikulski
Member
United States House of
Representatives